



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Education Committee

From: Jim Holcomb, Vice President Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Subject: House Bill 4700 / Senate Bill 222

Date: April 23, 2009

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce **opposes** passage of HB 4700 and Senate Bill 222, which would expand the membership of recreational authorities to include school districts, and grant to them full authority to purchase property, hire employees, levy taxes, borrow money, and issue bonds and notes.

When our state is struggling to deal with the current economic conditions, we should not be enacting laws to create yet another debt instrument for schools, thereby expanding the taxpayers total debt exposure. Our members do not agree with increasing taxes, especially for non-instructional items, before we achieve meaningful educational reform focused on student achievement, administrative efficiency and spending transparency. Once real reforms are enacted, we will have a clearer understanding of actual funding needs and could engage in a meaningful debate.

During these challenging economic times, job providers in Michigan simply cannot endure the assessment of higher property taxes. Our membership believes this legislation is ill-conceived and will have a negative impact on businesses in many communities across Michigan.

On behalf of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce I ask you to **reject** these harmful proposals to increase property taxes.

Please call Phil Guyeskey or Jim Holcomb at 517-371-2100 if you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance.